

For 20 years I worked for commercial radio and tv stations in Missouri, Kansas and Texas. In those days, we had the wonderful "fairness doctrine" which said stations operating on public airways, serving the public interest, were to give fair and equal coverage to all sides of political issues. We embraced the idea and tried to do a good job of it.

Times must have changed. Companies like Sinclair Broadcasting have bought up stations in major markets and are using them as propaganda machines for their own political causes. They have undermined the idea of real local coverage and local opinion, as well as the idea that something put on the air as a political statement should carry an announcement that it is commercial and political. That, I believe should apply to programs paid for by "the management."

Let's re-tighten the rules. What happened to the days when every station had to have real news, public service and public affairs programs... when stations offering air time for or against a candidate had to offer equal time to the opposition... when editorials and commercials had to be identified as such?